



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

A. G. Kawamura, Secretary

Meeting Summary Dairy Technical Coordination Committee (DTCC) 9 February 2007

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) presented a short Power Point presentation as background information on the purpose and guiding principals of the DTCC. These principals were based on the initial meeting of July 2006 that resulted in the recommendation that the DTCC be formed as well as the 12 January 2007 meeting of the DTCC Steering Committee to develop DTCC guiding principals. The DTCC guiding principals were aired and discussed and vetted at February 9 2007 meeting the full DTCC. Several common themes emerged from the kick-off full DTCC meeting. An overall recap of the results from the three meetings to date is summarized below.

I. DTCC Purpose

The initial meeting of the full DTCC was held to identify priorities in guiding the formation of strategic plan to prioritize dairy environmental research and demonstration needs on a statewide basis. The ultimate goal of the strategic plan is to outline a process that will effectively take into account past and ongoing applied scientific research activities in support of the goal to develop and identify effective on-farm management practices for California dairies that maximize environmental benefits and that are cost effective for the dairy industry to implement. The CDFA seeks input and consensus from the DTCC in identifying priorities in developing the strategic plan.

II. Guiding Principles

Based on following key elements identified during the prior Dairy Steering Committee meeting on 12 January 2007, the strategic plan should include all of the following:

1. Develop an inventory of existing scientific knowledge for both air and water quality with respect to dairies and identify any data gaps;
2. Account for multi-media (air & water quality) research needs reflective of dairy variability regionally and statewide;
3. Develop a systematic approach to rank and prioritize research needs;
4. Identify specific research and demonstration projects that show the most promise to fill in data gaps;
5. Identify on-farm management techniques that are economically feasible & based on sound research and demonstration efforts;

6. Identify research projects that consider both short & long-term implications of dairy management practices and demonstrate a net benefit to air quality & water quality;
7. Identify larger policy issues that are barriers or constraints toward increasing dairy environmental stewardship;
8. Identify and leverage existing & potential funding sources;
9. Adaptively monitor, assess, and evaluate on-farm management practices to ensure adequate environmental performance to validate and fine-tune future research and demonstration projects

III. Themes Discussed

DTCC participants provided input to better refine the purpose and scope of the DTCC. The common themes that emerged are summarized below. These themes should be considered in moving forward to develop a strategic plan for dairy environmental research:

1. A priority is for DTCC to consider the body of existing research and its applicability to the different dairy regions of California and to identify the data gaps that will point the way to good demonstration projects.
2. DTCC should assess the application to dairies of existing technologies that are currently developed, but not currently used in dairy mitigation.
3. DTCC should identify “low-hanging fruit.” Low-hanging fruit can be defined as measures that can be feasibly and economically implemented, through existing outreach capacity.
4. Research should be focused to address key data gaps to better inform regulatory programs. DTCC should identify scientific research needs and demonstration projects on dairy environmental performance that addresses the question of whether existing regulatory thresholds or prescriptive-based standards are appropriate to protect the environment in consideration of the economic impacts to the dairy industry (e.g., are lagoon liners or covers always necessary?).
5. DTCC research efforts should not be duplicative or uncoordinated with work currently engaged by existing entities, such as that of the San Joaquin Valley

Air Quality Management District through the San Joaquin Ag-Tech Group/Dairy Subcommittee.

6. DTCC must consider cross-media impacts of specific management measures in its evaluation of specific management practices.
7. DTCC should identify the impediments to the application of knowledge gained from research and demonstration being implemented on the farm.
8. Existing regulatory structure for VOCs is inadequate, and DTCC should promote research on ozone reactivity

IV. Actions Items

Based on the prior discussion the DTCC action items were mutually agreed upon as warranted. Items #1 and #4 will assist CDFA staff in the development of a strategic plan.

1. ***All meeting participants are strongly encouraged to forward any and all known information on past and present research and demonstration projects to CDFA staff. This will allow CDFA to begin to compile the body on existing knowledge necessary to identify with DTCC the gaps on dairy environmental research and demonstration.***
2. State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) staff will discuss with the Central Valley Water Board staff opportunities to take the lead in developing a water quality subcommittee as part of the DTCC. The major tasks of the water quality subcommittee would be to:
 - a. Evaluate existing technologies for applicability to dairy operations within the context of existing and emerging water quality regulations.
 - b. Identify future applied research projects that identify management practices with high potential to meet regulatory requirements and are economically feasible for dairy operators.
3. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (District) staff will provide a template for the SWRCB to develop a dairy water quality subcommittee. The district has had success in developing an Ag-Tech Committee to address air quality issues of farm management practices. This template may assist in the SWRCB effort to develop an ag-related water quality subcommittee.
4. All meeting participants strongly encouraged to submit comments, ideas, and recommendations regarding DTCC direction, priorities, and mission. CDFA

will compile the DTCC stakeholder comments and draft a vision and mission statement for wide circulation and feedback.

5. CDFA will explore possibilities to develop a web site to house the materials for DTCC meetings as well as a repository for inventoried air and water research efforts. CDFA staff will report look into the utility and practicality of other web-based concepts such as a blog site to facilitate brainstorming, cross-pollination, and as of a clearinghouse for ideas.
6. CDFA and other key stakeholders will participate in phase 2 of the USEPA technology assessment panel for both dairy air and water quality research.
7. CDFA will discuss with the California Integrated Waste Management Board staff the current regulatory environment as well as opportunities to expand manure composting on dairies.